KQ9

PREAMP EQUALIZER

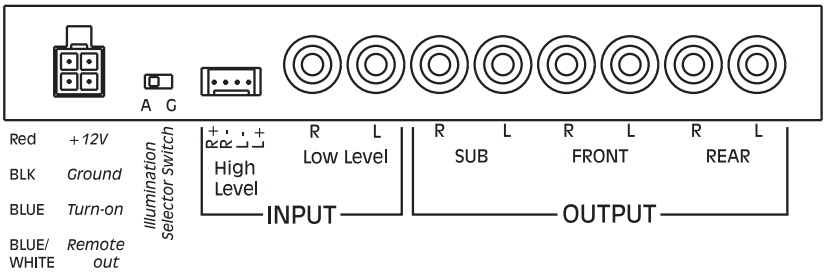
Congratulations! You have just purchased the one of latest products in signal processing technology to carry the famous KICKER name. Your KICKER KQ9 is designed and built to give you years of trouble-free performance. This installation manual contains valuable information on how to get the most out of your new KQ9 Preamp equalizer. Thanks for buying KICKER. Enjoy!

Features & Controls

- 8 Bands of equalization centered at 125Hz, 250 Hz, 500 Hz, 1kHz, 2kHz, 4kHz, 8kHz and 16 kHz with a range of +12 to -12dB
- One variable frequency 40 to 60 Hz sub-bass equalizer
- Low pass electronic crossover - 60-120 Hz @18 dB/octave
- High pass electronic crossover- 100 Hz @ 18 dB/octave
- Front and Rear RCA outputs
- Separate sub-bass-RCA output level control: 0 to +6 dB
- Equalizer defeat switch
- Dual illumination colors
- Half DIN chassis
- High and low level inputs for compatibility with all head units

Wiring Configurations

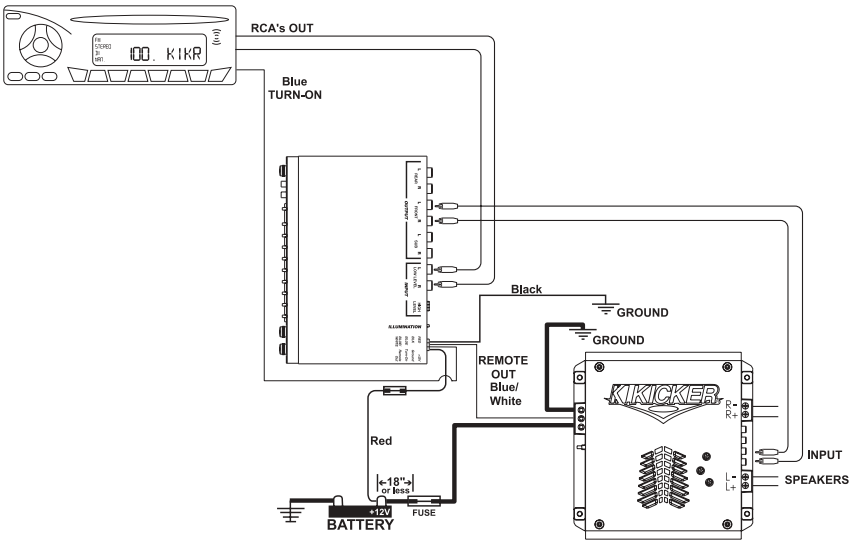
Back Panel Features



Power connection is quite simple for the Kicker KQ9. The red wire connects to a constant source of +12 volts and the black wire connects to ground. There are two other wires that are part of the turn-on circuitry. The solid blue wire connects to the turn-on connection on your head unit. In the event you don't have an amplifier turn-on connection on your head unit, this wire can be hooked to a switched source of +12 volts such as an accessory wire. The blue wire with a white stripe is the turn-on output wire. It can be used to turn on on your amplifier(s).

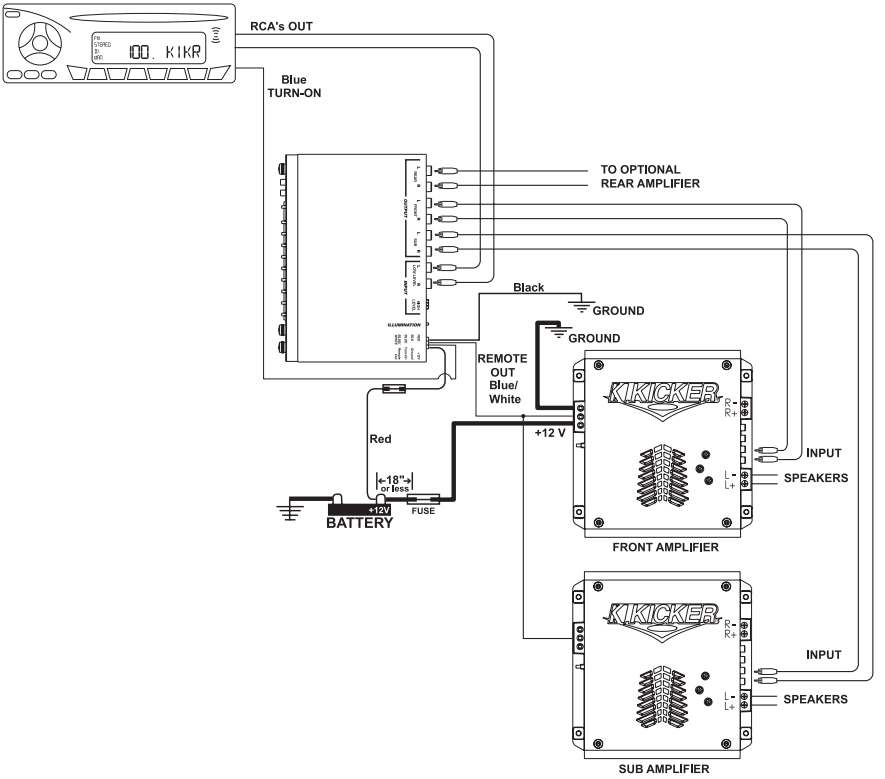
The Kicker KQ9 equalizer is designed to go inline from the head unit to the amplifier(s). Low level RCA and high level (speaker level) inputs are provided for universal connection to a variety of different head units.

The output RCAs may be used for one, two or three amplifiers. The most basic system will use the Front outputs only. Shown below.



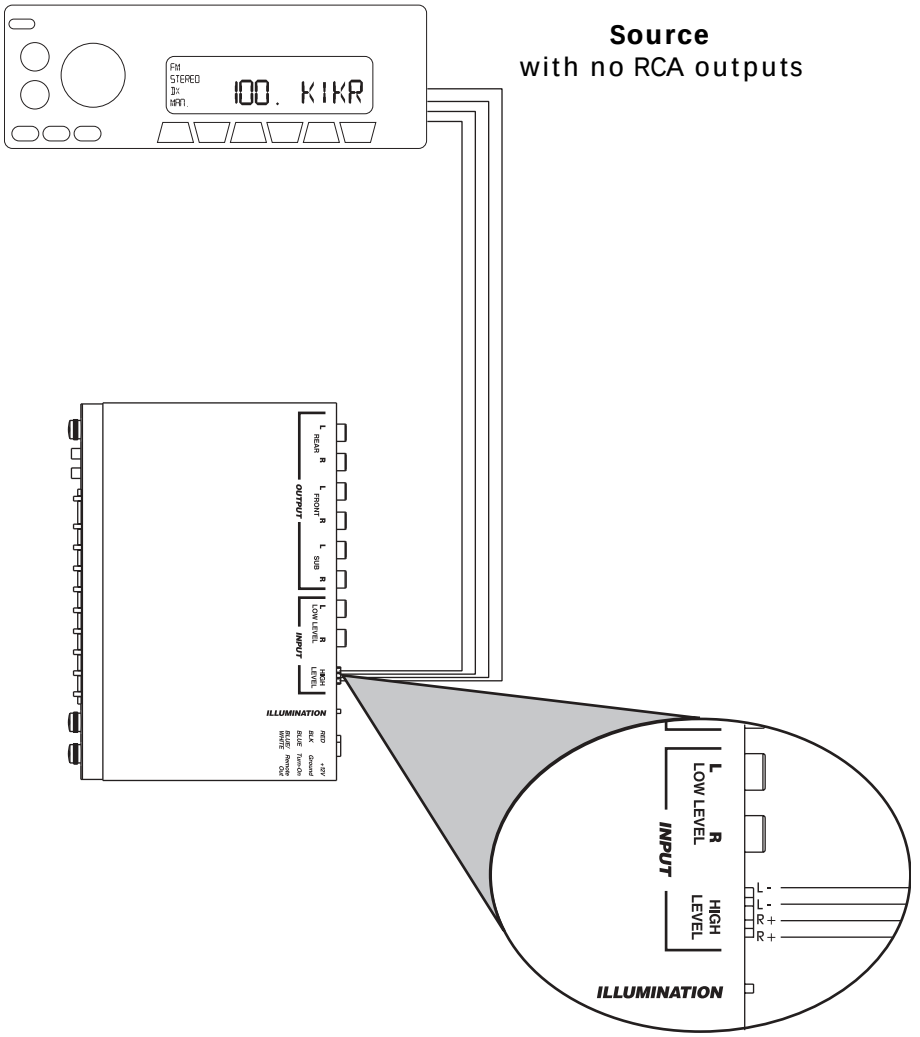
Additional Wiring Configurations:

Using more than one amplifier with the KQ9 is very simple. It has outputs for a front amplifier, a rear amplifier and a subwoofer amplifier. You can build a basic bi-amp system using the Front and Sub outputs. If you don't have a dedicated subwoofer amplifier you can still use the Front and Rear outputs to power four speakers with two stereo amplifiers or one four channel amplifier.



Using High Level Source

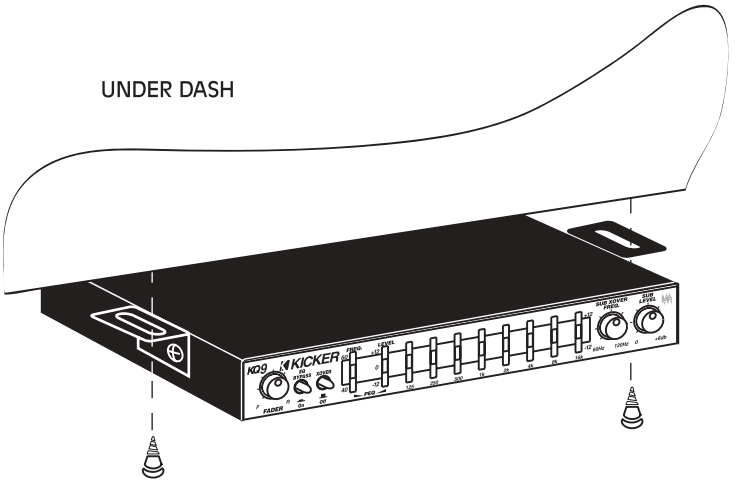
Your KQ (has a high level plug for use with the speaker outputs of head units that do not have RCA outputs. the high level input is compatible with standard and high power decks. Do not use the RCA and high level inputs at the same time.

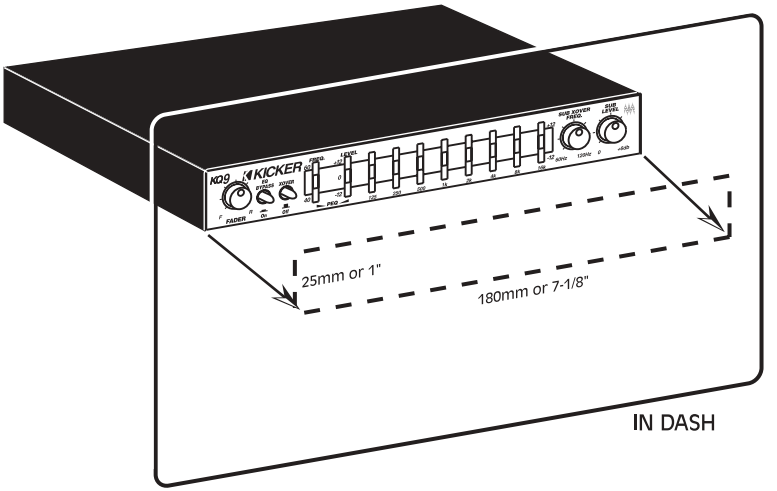


Mounting The Kicker KQ9

There are two basic mounting options for the Kicker KQ9. One is to mount it under the dash with the supplied brackets, the other is to cut a hole through a suitable panel in the dash for a built-in look. If you choose the in-dash mounting method be careful to cut the right size hole for the best appearance.

Some dash kit manufacturers make a special kit, for some vehicle models, that allows the installation of the KQ9 with a DIN head unit. Check with your local Authorized Kicker dealer for detailed information.

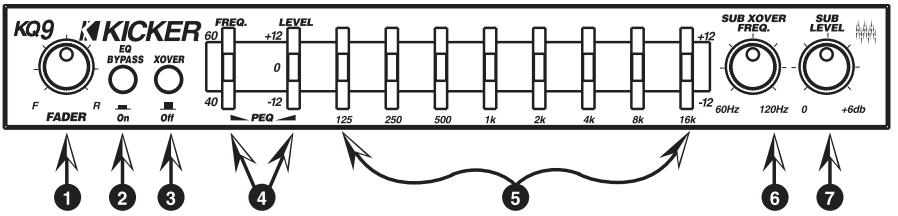




Adjusting And Using Your KQ9

Before permanently mounting the KQ9, power the system up and set the illumination switch on the rear of the chassis for green or amber lighting to match your vehicle's dashboard or to fit your personal taste. The EQ slider lights are always red, regardless of the illumination switch setting.

After you've mounted the Kicker KQ9 and put your vehicle's interior back together, it's time to get familiar with all the controls and functions. Spend time getting to know your EQ so you won't get distracted if you want to adjust something while driving. It is dangerous to take your eyes off the road for any reason.



1. FADER: This control gives you the ability to fade between the front and rear RCA outputs. If you are using only one of these outputs simply turn the control all the way to the front or rear, whichever is appropriate.

2. EQ BYPASS: This button will turn the equalizer portion off for comparison between an equalized signal and the natural sound of your stereo. When the EQ is switched off (IN position) the lights on the EQ sliders turn off.

3. XOVER on/off button: When this button is pushed in, the sub output RCAs have a lowpass signal available for your subwoofer amplifier. Also, the front and rear outputs are highpassed when the XOVER is engaged. This helps the power handling of your midranges and tweeters. When the XOVER is off (OUT position) the subwoofer RCAs have no signal and the front and rear RCAs are full range.

4. PEQ slider controls: These two sliders control the frequency and level of the lowest bass portion of the music. The first slider, marked FREQ, lets you choose the frequency between 40 Hz and 60 Hz at which the bass boost or cut will occur. The LEVEL slider allows you to boost +12 dB or cut -12 dB at the chosen frequency. Please note - as you attempt to apply more boost at really low frequencies more power is required from your sub amplifier and the subs will move a lot more.

5. Graphic EQ slider controls: This is the conventional equalizer portion of your KQ9. You have the ability to boost or cut eight different frequencies from 125 Hz to 16 kHz. Starting with all the sliders in the center position, listen to a variety of musical passages. As you become familiar with the way your system sounds, there will probably be portions of the music you would like to boost up or cut back. By moving each of the sliders up and down, it will become apparent which one affects which part of music. Setting an equalizer is very subjective and you can set it any way you like to get the performance you desire.

6. Sub XOVER FREQ: This knob will change the lowpass frequency on the sub out RCAs. The lowest setting (60 Hz) will be most effective with very large subwoofers. The highest setting)120 Hz) will probably be used only with very small subwoofers. The central position will be a good starting place for most systems; you can adjust up or down from there to suit your taste and optimize the performance of your speakers.
7. SUB LEVEL: When the sub out RCAs and the XOVER are being used, this knob is your Bass Control. It sets how loud the subwoofers play and gives you the ability to turn them up and down without changing the equalizer settings. This will be the knob you use the most.

Specifications

Dimensions:	7-1/8" W X 1" H X 5" D (180mm X 25mm X 123mm)
Maximum input voltage:	10 Vrms
Minimum input voltage:	150 mVrms
Signal to Noise:	90.5 dB ref 1 Vrms
Channel Separation:	-75.0 dB
Highpass Crossover:	18 dB / octave @ 100 Hz (fixed)
Lowpass Crossover:	18 dB / octave @ 60 to 120 Hz (adjustable)
Illumination:	Green or Amber
Equalization:	+/- 12 dB at 125HZ, 250Hz, 500Hz, 1kHz, 2kHz, 4kHz, 8kHz, 16kHz
Sub EQ:	+/- 12 dB adjustable from 40 to 60 Hz
Sub output level:	-75 dB to +6 dB

ELECTRONICS LIMITED WARRANTY

Kicker warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use for a period of **THREE (3) MONTHS** from date of original purchase. When purchased from and installed by an Authorized KICKER Dealer it is warranted for **TWO (2) YEARS** from date of original purchase, or **ONE (1) YEAR** from date of original purchase if purchased from but not installed by an Authorized KICKER Dealer. If the product is labeled "B Stock" and purchased from an Authorized KICKER Dealer, it is warranted for ONE (1) YEAR from date of purchase, regardless of place of installation. Should service be necessary under this warranty for any reason due to manufacturing defect or malfunction during the warranty period, Kicker will replace or repair (at its discretion) the defective merchandise with equivalent merchandise at no charge. Warranty replacements on "B-Stock" merchandise may have cosmetic scratches and blemishes. Discontinued products may be replaced with more current equivalent products.

This warranty is valid only for the **original purchaser** and is not extended to owners of the product subsequent to the original purchaser. Any applicable implied warranties are limited in duration to a period of the express warranty as provided herein beginning with the date of the original purchase at retail, and no warranties, whether express or implied, shall apply to this product thereafter. Some states do not allow limitations on implied warranties, therefore these exclusions may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights; however you may have other rights that vary from state to state.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED WARRANTY OR SERVICE

Defective merchandise must be returned to your local Authorized Stillwater Designs (Kicker) Dealer for warranty. Assistance in locating an Authorized Dealer can be obtained by writing or calling Stillwater Designs direct. You can confirm that a dealer is authorized by asking to see a current authorized dealer window decal.

If it becomes necessary for you to return defective merchandise, call the Kicker Customer Service Department at (405)624-8510 for a Return Authorization (RMA) number. Package all defective items in the original container or in a package that will prevent shipping damage, and return to

Stillwater Designs, 5021 North Perkins Road, Stillwater, OK 74075

The RMA number must be clearly marked on the outside of the package. Return only defective components. Return of entire cabinets, system packs, pairs, etc. increases your return freight charges. Non-defective items received will be returned freight collect.

Include a dated **proof-of-purchase** stating the Customer name, Dealer name, product purchased and date of purchase. Warranty expiration on items without proof-of-purchase will be determined from type of sale and the manufacturing date code. Freight must be prepaid; items received freight collect will be refused.

Failure to follow these steps may void your warranty. Any questions can be directed to the Kicker Customer Service Department at (405)624-8510.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED?

This warranty is valid only if the product is used for the purpose for which it was designed.

It does not cover:

- Damage due to improper installation
- Subsequent damage to other components
- Damage caused by exposure to moisture, excessive heat, chemical cleaners, and/or UV radiation
- Damage through negligence, misuse, accident or abuse. Repeated returns for the same damage may be considered abuse.
- Any cost or expense related to the removal or reinstallation of product
- Speakers damaged due to amplifier clipping or distortion
- Items previously repaired or modified by any unauthorized repair facility
- Return shipping on non-defective items
- Products with tampered or missing barcode labels
- Products returned without a Return Authorization (RMA) number
- Freight Damage
- The cost of shipping product to Kicker
- Service performed by anyone other than Kicker
- Speaker with any foreign caulk used for gasket material

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Kicker strives to maintain a goal of 24-hour service for all returns. Delays may be incurred lif lack of replacement inventory or parts is encountered.

INTERNATIONAL WARRANTY

Contact your International Kicker dealer or distributor concerning specific procedures for your country's warranty policies.

P.O. Box 459 • Stillwater, Oklahoma 74076 • U.S.A. • 405 624-8510

STILLWATER Designs®

WARNING: KICKER drivers are capable of producing sound levels that can permanently damage your hearing! Turning up a system to a level that has audible distortion is more damaging to your ears than listening to an undistorted system at the same volume level. The threshold of pain is always an indicator that the sound level is too loud and may permanently damage your hearing. Please use common sense when controlling volume!

August 2002